



Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc.

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To begin observance of "Martha's Day" on April 11, members of the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta administrative committee have invited the public to join them for fasting and prayer at 7:00 a. m. at St. Mark Methodist Church, Peachtree and Fifth Streets.

The invitation was issued by Dr. William Geren, President of the Council and Pastor of the Dogwood Hills Baptist Church. He urged all Atlantans to participate in "Martha's Day" by contributing to the Ira Jarrell Milk Fund for hungry school children.

Tax deductible checks can be mailed to Christian Council, Box 567, Atlanta, Georgia 30301.

Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr. has proclaimed April 11 as "Martha's Day" calling upon the city to "eat for 1 day what Martha eats, to feel for 1 day what Martha feels."

Martha, a first grader from a poverty family, was introduced by Economic Opportunity Atlanta and the Christian Council of Metropolitan Atlanta to dramatize the plight of Atlanta's hungry children.

Martha is not her real name, but she is a real child. She knows what it is like to try to do her school work on a near empty stomach.

She lives with her parents, four brothers and one sister in three rooms which used to be someone's garage. The family pays \$28.00 a week for the three rooms. The landlady comes to collect the rent each Saturday. Now that her father is only making \$30.00 a week the family of eight must somehow exist each week on the remaining \$2.00.

Sometimes Martha goes to school without breakfast. Her daily diet often consists of a sandwich and several hot dogs, or perhaps just beans and potatoes.

In October Martha was sick during the entire month with a throat infection. Her teacher told her mother that Martha might fail the first grade because of her month's absence. But Martha is eager to show visitors how well she can read and write. She hopes she will pass.

Nobody knows how many hungry Marthas there are in Atlanta or Georgia, but there are thousands. For most the only decent meal all day is the school lunch. Some do not even get that.